Claims:

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent. By this Amendment, independent claim 16 has been added.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a detecting part which detects, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

a generating part which generates a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part;

a separating part which separates a color signal from the image signal; and

a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the control signal.

2 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first storage part which stores an output from said detecting part, wherein said generating part generates the control signal in dependence upon an output from said first storage part; and

a second storage part which stores this control signal, wherein said suppression part suppresses the color signal using the control signal read out of said second storage part.

3 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by image sensing part, and said detecting part detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

4 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

5 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): An image processing method comprising:

detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

generating a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward the periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting;

separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the control signal.

6 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

first storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating step generates the control signal in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion; and

second storing this control signal, wherein said suppression step suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored control signal.

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting step detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

8 (ORIGINAL): The method according to claim 5, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

9 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing:

detection processing for detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

generation processing for generating a control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting processing;

separation processing for separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppression processing for suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the control signal.

10 (ORIGINAL): The storage medium according to claim 9, said storage medium further storing:

a program for executing processing for storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating processing generates the control signal in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion; and

a program for executing processing for storing this control signal, wherein said suppression processing suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored control signal.

11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting processing detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

12 (ORIGINAL): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the control signal has a waveform for obtaining a suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

13 (CANCELLED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery, and said suppression part two-dimensionally suppresses the separated color signal by the control signal.

14 (CANCELLED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery and, in said suppressing step, the separated color signal is two-dimensionally suppressed by the control signal.

15 (CANCELLED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the prescribed waveform two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery and, in said suppression processing, the separated color signal is two-dimensionally suppressed by the control signal.

16. (NEW): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a detecting part that detects, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

a separating part that separates a color signal from the image signal; and

a suppression part that suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction and that is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion in response to the high-luminance portion detected by said detecting part on a image screen.